

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1231

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to require that each 5-year offshore oil and gas leasing program offer leasing in the areas with the most prospective oil and gas resources, to establish a domestic oil and natural gas production goal, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. LANDRY, Mr. FLORES, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. NUNES, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. MYRICK, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. OLSON, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. LONG, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. KELLY, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, and Mr. POSEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to require that each 5-year offshore oil and gas leasing program offer leasing in the areas with the most prospective oil and gas resources, to establish a domestic oil and natural gas production goal, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Reversing President  
3 Obama’s Offshore Moratorium Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LEASING PROGRAM.**

5 Section 18(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands  
6 Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(a)) is amended by adding at the end  
7 the following:

8 “(4)(A) In each oil and gas leasing program  
9 under this section, the Secretary shall make avail-  
10 able for leasing and conduct lease sales including—

11 “(i) at least 50 percent of the available un-  
12 leased acreage within each outer Continental  
13 Shelf planning area considered to have the larg-  
14 est undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and  
15 gas resources (on a total btu basis) based upon  
16 the most recent national geologic assessment of  
17 the outer Continental Shelf, with an emphasis  
18 on offering the most geologically prospective  
19 parts of the planning area; and

20 “(ii) any State subdivision of an outer  
21 Continental Shelf planning area that the Gov-  
22 ernor of the State that represents that subdivi-  
23 sion requests be made available for leasing.

24 “(B) In this paragraph the term ‘available un-  
25 leased acreage’ means that portion of the outer Con-  
26 tinental Shelf that is not under lease at the time of

1 a proposed lease sale, and that has not otherwise  
 2 been made unavailable for leasing by law.

3 “(5)(A) In the 2012–2017 5-year oil and gas  
 4 leasing program, the Secretary shall make available  
 5 for leasing any outer Continental Shelf planning  
 6 areas that—

7 “(i) are estimated to contain more than  
 8 2,500,000,000 barrels of oil; or

9 “(ii) are estimated to contain more than  
 10 7,500,000,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas.

11 “(B) To determine the planning areas described  
 12 in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall use the  
 13 document entitled ‘Minerals Management Service  
 14 Assessment of Undiscovered Technically Recoverable  
 15 Oil and Gas Resources of the Nation’s Outer Conti-  
 16 nental Shelf, 2006’.”.

17 **SEC. 3. DOMESTIC OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION**

18 **GOAL.**

19 Section 18(b) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands  
 20 Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(b)) is amended to read as follows:

21 “(b) DOMESTIC OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUC-  
 22 TION GOAL.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In developing a 5-year oil  
 24 and gas leasing program, and subject to paragraph  
 25 (2), the Secretary shall determine a domestic stra-

1        tegic production goal for the development of oil and  
2        natural gas as a result of that program. Such goal  
3        shall be—

4                “(A) the best estimate of the possible in-  
5                crease in domestic production of oil and natural  
6                gas from the outer Continental Shelf;

7                “(B) focused on meeting domestic demand  
8                for oil and natural gas and reducing the de-  
9                pendence of the United States on foreign en-  
10                ergy; and

11               “(C) focused on the production increases  
12               achieved by the leasing program at the end of  
13               the 15-year period beginning on the effective  
14               date of the program.

15               “(2) 2012–2017 PROGRAM GOAL.—For pur-  
16               poses of the 2012–2017 5-year oil and gas leasing  
17               program, the production goal referred to in para-  
18               graph (1) shall be an increase by 2027 of—

19               “(A) no less than 3,000,000 barrels in the  
20               amount of oil produced per day; and

21               “(B) no less than 10,000,000,000 cubic  
22               feet in the amount of natural gas produced per  
23               day.

24               “(3) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall report  
25               annually, beginning at the end of the 5-year period

1 for which the program applies, to the Committee on  
2 Natural Resources of the House of Representatives  
3 and the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-  
4 sources of the Senate on the progress of the pro-  
5 gram in meeting the production goal. The Secretary  
6 shall identify in the report projections for production  
7 and any problems with leasing, permitting, or pro-  
8 duction that will prevent meeting the goal.”.

9 **SEC. 4. SEISMIC SURVEYING PROMOTION.**

10 Section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act  
11 (43 U.S.C. 1344) is amended by adding at the end the  
12 following new subsection:

13 “(i) SEISMIC SURVEYING PROMOTION.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall issue  
15 regulations providing for—

16 “(A) issuance by the Secretary of seismic  
17 surveying cost credits for the provision of data  
18 from seismic surveying of the outer Continental  
19 Shelf described in paragraph (2); and

20 “(B) use of such credits by a person to  
21 whom issued, or by a transferee under para-  
22 graph (4) of whom the Secretary has received  
23 notice under that paragraph, for payment of  
24 bonus bids owed by the person or transferee, re-  
25 spectively, for oil and gas lease sales under this

1 section in the planning area where the seismic  
2 survey was conducted.

3 “(2) ISSUANCE.—The regulations shall provide  
4 for the issuance of such credits upon the date of the  
5 submission to the Secretary of the data produced by  
6 seismic surveying authorized under section 11 of any  
7 area for which the most recent seismic data held by  
8 the Secretary at the time of the survey is 10 years  
9 of age or older.

10 “(3) VALUE.—The value of such credits shall  
11 be equal to 50 percent of the costs incurred in con-  
12 ducting seismic surveying to produce the data for  
13 which the credits are issued.

14 “(4) TRANSFER.—A person to whom such a  
15 credit is issued by the Secretary may transfer the  
16 credit once, and shall notify the Secretary of such  
17 transfer.

18 “(5) EXPIRATION.—A seismic surveying cost  
19 credit shall expire 10 years after the date of the sub-  
20 mission of the date for which the credit is issued.”.

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